

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07

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R 261610Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9056

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO

SUBJECT: FAO WORKING PARTY ON COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF  
REFERENCE OF THE FAO COUNCIL AND SELECTED COMMITTEES,  
JULY 19-23

REF: ROME 11691

1. WORKING PARTY ON THE COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE  
OF THE FAO COUNCIL AND SELECTED COMMITTEES CONCLUDED ITS THIRD  
SESSION, FRIDAY, JULY 23, RESULT OF WEEK'S SESSION IS A FIVE  
PAGE REPORT WHICH COULD ONLY BE AGREED UPON BY USING VAGUE  
LANGUAGE AND A HYBRID APPROACH SO THAT IT WANDERS FROM A LIST  
OF MAIN ISSUES RAISED TO A SUMMARY OF THE DEBATE TO GENERAL  
CONCLUSIONS THOUGH THE WORKING PARTY NEVER ACTUALLY MADE ANY  
DECISIONS. THIS REPORT IS TO BE DISCUSSED BY MEMBERS OF THE  
WORKING PARTY WITH ITS REGIONAL GROUP AND ALSO DELEGATES  
ARE TO SEEK GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ON ISSUES RAISED FOR NEXT  
MEETING SCHEDULED FOR OCT 26-28.

2. MAIN ISSUES RAISED WERE 1) INCREASE IN FAO COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP  
2) CONSIDERATION OF FAO REGIONAL GROUPINGS 3) BALANCED  
REPRESENTATION ON PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES 4) GOVERN-  
MENT OR INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTATION ON PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMM-  
ITTEES 5) FUTURE ROLE AND EXISTENCE OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND  
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LEGAL COMMITTEE 6) FUTURE ROLE OF COUNCIL INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN

7) DELGATION OF AUTHORITY TO COUNCIL STATUTORY COMMITTEES  
TO INCREASE COUNCIL'S EFFICIENCY 8) TIGHTER MEETINGS OF COUNCIL  
WITH HIGHLIGHTED, SHARPLY DRAWN DISCUSSIONS 9) CONTINUATION  
OF DEBATE ON REGIONAL CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION.

3. THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY ARE FAR FROM  
CLEAR ON ANY OF THESE ISSUES WITH NO DIVISION INTO GROUPS YET  
VISABLE. IN BRIEF STATMENT TO WORKING PARTY, SAOUMA SAID HE  
HAD NO CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FOR WORKING PARTY. HE THEN SAID  
HE MIGHT BE MAKING SOME SUGGESTIONS LATER ON ON THE DELEGATIONS OF  
AUTHORITY TO EXPERT COMMITTEES LIKE THE PROGRAM AND FINANCE  
COMMITTEE. THEY ARE VERY BROAD AND COULD HAVE FINANCIAL IMPLICA-  
TIONS ON FAO. CLEARER INFLUENCE ON WORKING PARTY IS POSITIONS  
OF FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL WHO WOULD PREFER TO HAVE WORKING PARTY WIND  
UP ITS WORK QUICKLY WITH SUBSTANTIAL BACKING OF STATUS QUO.  
BRAZIL, FOR EXAMPLE, HAD BEEN PUSHING FOR GOVERNMENT REPRESENT-  
ATION ON PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES WHICH WOULD BE EXHORTED  
TO REALLY WORK OVER DG'S FUTURE BUDGET, BUT WAS ABSENT FOR SECOND  
HALF OF DAY AFTER TUNISIAN AND ALGERIA EXPLAINED TO DELEGATE  
THAT DG DID NOT WANT COMBATIVE COMMITTEES AND WAS VERY  
HAPPY WITH PRESENT STATUS QUO.

4. WE HAVE KEPT CANADA FULLY INFORMED OF DEBATE HERE IN ROME AND  
REQUESTED CANADA'S VIEWS ON THE ISSUES RAISED BEFORE OCT 26-28,  
1976 WHEN WORKING GROUP IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO MEET  
AGAIN TO FINALIZE ITS INTERIM REPORT TO THE 85TH SESSION OF  
THE FAO COUNCIL. USG MUST ALSO PREPARE POSITION ON THESE  
ISSUES.

5. FULL REPORT OF WORKING GROUP ALONG WITH REFERENCE MATERIAL  
PREPARED FOR GROUP WILL BE POUCHED BYRNES IO/AGR WHEN IT  
IS AVAILABLE JULY 27 OR 28. VOLPE

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